

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13368

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT OF JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL MIHARA

1. JDA DIRGEN MIHARA'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL END TWO YEAR HIATUS IN SECDEF-JDA DIRGEN EXCHANGES CAUSED IN LARGE PART BY REPERCUSSIONS OF LOCKHEED SCANDAL AND TUMULTUOUS POLITICAL SITUATION IN JAPAN DURING LATTER PART OF 1976. MIHARA IS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO EXCHANGE WITH SECDEF, WHICH HE HOPES WILL FURTHER DIALOGUE SO CONSTRUCTIVELY BEGUN IN PAST AND STRENGTHEN BASIS FOR US-JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. WE BELIEVE MIHARA HAS WON RESPECT OF BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS OF AGENCY AND OTHERS IN JAPAN CONCERNED WITH DEFENSE MATTERS. MIHARA LOOKS FORWARD TO SERIOUS, RELATIVELY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS IN HIS MEETING WITH SECDEF.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY COMMENT ON JDA-PROPOSED AGENDA, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH JDA OFFICIALS.

A. AGENDA ITEM 1 - U.S. ASSESSMENT OF THREAT TO JAPAN AND TO U.S. ASIAN POSTURE. MIHARA WILL WISH TO HEAR LATEST U.S. ASSESSMENT OF INCREASED USSR NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC AND WHAT IT MEANS
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FOR U.S. FORCE PLANNING. HE WILL ALSO WELCOME SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON EFFECT OF POSSIBLE REGIONAL CONFLICTS (E.G. IN THE MIDDLE EAST) ON EAST ASIAN SECURITY. FINALLY, MIHARA HOPES TO HAVE A BRIEF U.S. ASSESSMENT OF GLOBAL STRATEGIC BALANCE. MIHARA WILL BE PREPARED TO OUTLINE CONCISELY JAPANESE THOUGHTS ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTHEAST ASIA.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - FUTURE U.S. STRATEGY IN THE PACIFIC. MIHARA WILL WISH TO KNOW IN AS SPECIFIC TERMS AS POSSIBLE U.S. MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM FORCE PLANS FOR WESTPAC. SPECIFICALLY, HE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND WITH REGARD TO MARINE DEPLOYMENTS IN OKINAWA, AIR FORCE DEPLOYMENTS IN JAPAN, AND SEVENTH FLEET DEPLOYMENTS IN THE FAR EAST.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - GOJ DEFENSE CONCEPT AND CONSOLIDATION PLANS. MIHARA WILL BRIEFLY OUTLINE JDA PLANS FOR STRENGTHENING SELF DEFENSE FORCES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON JDA DECISION TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION FOR ACQUISITION OF P3C AND F-15 AIRCRAFT IN JFY 78 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE FUTURE OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY. IN DISCUSSING JAPANESE DEFENSE POLICY MIHARA WILL UNDERSCORE RECENT PROGRESS THAT JDA BELIEVES HAS BEEN MADE IN OBTAINING BROADER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SECURITY ISSUES. HE MAY ALSO SEEK SECRETARY'S SUPPORT IN ASSURING JAPAN TREATMENT ON SAME BASIS AS NATO COUNTRIES IN MILITARY PROCUREMENT.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - U.S.-JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. MIHARA IS GRATIFIED AT RESULTS TO DATE OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE COOPERATION (SDC) AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD SUCH COOPERATION. WE UNDERSTAND HE IS PREPARED TO HEAR SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON LABOR COST SHARING. GOJ OFFICIALS STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT MIHARA AND PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA HAVE LITTLE MANEUVERING ROOM ON LABOR ISSUE AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OFFICIALLY SUBJECT HAS BEEN ADDRESSED ONLY AT WORKING LEVEL. ALTHOUGH FIGURE OF SIX BILLION YEN HAS BEEN
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REPEATEDLY MENTIONED IN PRESS AS POSSIBLE GOJ CONTRIBUTION TO USFJ LABOR COSTS, MIHARA WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC FIGURES DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. NEVERTHELESS, JDA OFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR MIHARA AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN SECRETARY'S VIEWS DIRECTLY, CAUTIONING AT SAME TIME THAT USG SHOULD NOT EXPECT GREAT DEAL. (WE SUGGEST THAT SECRETARY NOTE CONTINUING HIGH-LEVEL USG INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE, WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT RESOLUTION DURING MIHARA VISIT.) WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEFENSE BUREAU DIRECTOR-GENERAL ITO WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON AFTER MIHARA'S DEPARTURE TO CONDUCT FURTHER DETAILED TALKS ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES IF DESIRABLE.
MANSFIELD

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